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Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar :—" Why is it said that these men are temporary ? "

The hon. Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar :—" Under the rules they have not served sufficiently long to acquire permanent rights or they were taken on condition of reversion."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar :—" Is there any condition like that ? "

The hon. Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar :—" Yes."

Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar :—" May I know if this Government applied to the Government of India to withdraw any of these permanent officers or to employ them elsewhere ? "

The hon. Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar :—" The hon. Member probably has not read the answer which says, 'the detailed measures required to safeguard the prospects of these officers are being worked out by the Government of India.' If they work out these detailed measures as to how to preserve these rights and we agree with them, and they provide for sending them away these officers can then be sent away."

Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar :—" I am afraid the hon. Member has not understood what I said. I want to know whether this Government asked the Government of India to withdraw some of these officers who are permanent by employing them outside the Presidency."

The hon. Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar :—" Under the regulations so far issued, under the communiqués so far issued, the rights of permanent officers in this province have to be preserved. How these rights are to be preserved and whether we shall be able to send them away are matters for decision by the Government of India."

Dr. B. S. Mallayya :—" Are the rights of the I.M.S. officers superior to those of the doctors in the provincial service ? "

The hon. Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar :—" Where my hon. Friend got the idea about superiority I am not able to understand."

Dr. B. S. Mallayya :—" Is it the policy of the Government to encourage I.M.S. men from foreign lands in preference to the sons of the soil ? "

The hon. Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar :—" If it had been the policy of the Government to encourage I.M.S. officers before, that policy has to a certain extent been curtailed now."

Public Health

Enquiry into the death of a girl at Puthiyara after anti-hookworm treatment.

* 1501 Q.—Mr. K. Madhavan Nayar : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether his attention has been drawn to the tragic death of a girl five years old studying in the Mamuttipara girls' school at Puthiyara, Calicut, immediately after the administration of anti-hookworm medicine ;

(*b*) the interval that elapsed between the time the medicine was administered and the death of the girl ;

(*c*) the number of children in the said section to whom the medicine was administered on that day ;

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(*d*) the number of children who were taken to the hospital as a result of the treatment on that day;

(*e*) whether the doctor that gave the medicine has given epilepsy as the cause of the girl's death while the parents of the child have emphatically denied that the child had epilepsy at any time;

(*f*) whether it is a fact that the doctor was chatting with a mistress of the school inside the school-room while the medicine was being administered by his peon to the children outside; and

(*g*) whether the hon. the Minister has caused any enquiry to be instituted into this matter and if not, whether he will do so at once?

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The girl died within half an hour.

(*c*) Eighty-three.

(*d*) About six children related to the warders of the Government Mental Hospital, Calicut, were taken to that hospital and a few others to the Headquarter Hospital.

(*e*) The answer to the first part is in the negative and the answer to the second part is in the affirmative.

(*f*) No. Medicine was administered inside the school-room by the doctor himself and not by the peon.

(*g*) The answer to the first part is in the affirmative. The second part of the question does not arise.

Mr. K. MADHAVAN NAYAR :—"Will the hon. the Minister be pleased to state what was the nature of the enquiry that he conducted into the death of the girl after the anti-hookworm treatment and what the result of that enquiry is?"

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—"The enquiry was held by the District Medical Officer and the Director of Public Health, and the people who were there were examined and it is with reference to that information got there, that the report is drawn up."

Mr. K MADHAVAN NAYAR :—"My question, clause (*g*), is as to whether the hon. the Minister has caused any enquiry to be instituted into this matter and, if not, whether he will do so at once. The answer to the first part is in the affirmative. May I know therefore whether the hon. the Minister himself has instituted any enquiry into the matter or he relies entirely upon the report of these officers?"

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—"The Minister does not make the enquiry. He asked the officers concerned to make the enquiry and they made it and sent their report."

Mr. K. MADHAVAN NAYAR :—"May I know when that was?"

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—"I think it was in December soon after the incident."

Mr. K. MADHAVAN NAYAR :—"May I know the result of the enquiry?"

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—"The result is that the death was not due to any want of care on the part of these people."

Mr. K. MADHAVAN NAYAR :—"May I know what the actual cause of the death of the girl was?"

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—"Heart failure due to fainting (dissenting interruptions) I think."

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Mr. K. Madhavan Nayar :—" Had that girl at any time any heart disease ? "

The hon. Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar :—" I am not in a position to answer that."

Mr. K. Madhavan Nayar :—" May I know if any doctor or any other person that was examined in the course of the enquiry attributed the death to epilepsy ? "

The hon. Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar :—" There was some such information given but the report says that it is not correct."

Dr. B. S. Mallayya :—" May I know whether any *post mortem* examination was held on that unfortunate girl and also whether a sample of the medicine that was administered to the half dozen or dozen children that became sick was submitted to the Chemical Examiner for analysis ? "

The hon. Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar :—" The medicine was submitted for chemical analysis by the Chemical Examiner, and his report is that the medicine was perfectly up to the standard. As regards the *post mortem* examination, I want notice."

Dr. B. S. Mallayya :—" I should like to know from the hon. the Minister whether the medicine that was administered to the children and taken out from their stomachs was submitted to the Chemical Examiner for analysis, whether there is or is not a rule that such stomach contents should be submitted to the Chemical Examiner for analysis, whether that examination was carried out, and what is the result of that ? "

The hon. Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar :—" My information is that a chemical analysis was made. But as to whether it was a chemical analysis of the remnants or portion of the medicine actually administered, I want notice."

Mr. K. Madhavan Nayar :—" With regard to clause (*f*) as to whether it is a fact that the doctor was chatting with a mistress of the school inside the school-room while the medicine was being administered. . . , the answer is ' No '. May I know whether the Taluk Board of Calicut passed a resolution preventing these people from going into the girls' school without their permission, and if so, what is the reason for that resolution ? "

The hon. Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar :—" The reason for passing that resolution the taluk board know much better than we do, but the Government are of opinion that the taluk board was not perfectly justified in passing that resolution, and we communicated that opinion to the taluk board."

Dr. B. S. Mallayya :—" May I know from the hon. the Minister whether the Government still maintain that when a certain medicine was administered to these 83 children and when 10 or 8 of them got sick, there is not something seriously wrong with the medicine or whatever it is ? "

The hon. Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar :—" I do not grant the premises of my hon. Friend, and so I do not think I can draw any opinion or conclusion on that."